

Tips for Families

Level 3 Module 1 | *The Sea*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 3 module 1. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 3 module 1, *The Sea*, students immerse themselves in a study of the ocean and its diverse life-forms and learn about people who have explored the sea. They answer the module's Essential Question: How do people explore the sea?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- What do you think of when you hear the word *sea* or *ocean*?
- When I say the word *exploration*, what do you think of?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 3 module 1, students read and learn from these books:

- *Amos and Boris,* William Steig
- *Giant Squid: Searching for a Sea Monster,* Mary M. Cerullo and Clyde F. E. Roper
- *Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor,* Robert Burleigh and Raúl Colón
- *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau,* Dan Yaccarino
- *Shark Attack,* Cathy East Dubowski

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *The Sea*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs and essays about the various ways people explore the sea.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Invite your student to write a quiz for you to take about the sea based on what they've learned, and then discuss the answers.

What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- data
- depth
- discovery
- ecosystem
- explore
- inspire
- invention
- research
- scientist
- surface

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Prompt your student to share the meanings of these words.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

Plan an in-person or virtual visit to an aquarium. Discuss with your student what they learned and what additional questions they may have.

Invite your student to gather printed or electronic images related to the ocean and ocean exploration. Encourage them to share the images and the reasons they chose them.

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